Revenue paid by the subscribers to DOT

*789. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately the top five percent of the subscribers paying revenue to the Department of Telecommunications (DOT), about 55 per cent of the total revenue earned by the department;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the private operators who will operate the basic telecom services are likely to approach exclusively this 55 per cent of highly revenue-paying section of the subscribers, as against the DOT who would be catering to the entire bulk of the subscribers; and

(c) if so, whether it would be an in built disadvantage for the DOT in such a scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No such data linking the specific percentage of subscribers with corresponding percentage of total revenue of the Department is maintained.

(b) No, Sir. The private operators have the obligation to provide a minimum of 10 per cent of the direct exchange lines as village public telephones. It is also a condition of the franchise that a private operator shall provide a telephone on demand to all the applicants.

(c) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.

Functional Autonomy to Major Ports

*790. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chairmen of major Port Trusts have demanded greater functional autonomy;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There has been no formal request from the Chairman of the major Port Trust demanding greater functional autonomy.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

External Funding for forestry projects

*791. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any external agencies have been funding the forestry projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of funds made available during the last three years; and

(c) the progress made in implementing the projects and the extent of areas covered, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The World Bank, Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan, Overseas Development Administration (ODA), U.K., Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and European Economic Community (EEC), are funding forestry projects in the country.

(b) During the three years ending 31 March, 1995 an amount of Rs. 442.97 crores has been made available by way of reimbursement by various external funding geancies for implemeting Forestry projects in the country.

(c) A Statement giving project-wise details is laid on the Table of the House as per Statement.